

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Burma

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SUBJECT Meeting of Ranking Members of Burma Communist Party (BCP), 8 February 1950

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1. At an emergency meeting of the Burma Communist Party (BCP) of Lower Burma held at Yitkangyi on 8 February 1950*, Thakin CHIT stated that the meeting had been convened for the following reasons:
 - (a) to discuss the present situation in Lower Burma.
 - (b) to prepare statements of funds collected and of purchases of arms and stores, such statements to be submitted to the Central Headquarters of the BCP by the end of February.
 - (c) to assimilate instructions received from the Central Headquarters of the BCP.
2. Thakin CHIT then read out instructions which he had received from the Central Headquarters of the party. These were signed by THAN TUN on 6 February and dispatched by special messenger to Yitkangyi. The instructions were as follows:
 - (a) Communist forces in Pegu district were to exert their utmost to prevent the enemy occupying BCP areas.
 - (b) Efforts to increase the supply of arms must be intensified.
 - (c) The traffic of paddy and other agricultural commodities into enemy areas must be stopped. Wherever possible supplies of paddy were to be bought by Communist forces and stored.
 - (d) Collection of funds must be intensified. These were to be dispatched to the Central Headquarters of the BCP at regular intervals. Authority was given for the use of funds collected for the local purchase of arms and ammunition provided a statement of account was furnished. Should the price of arms exceed the amount of funds collected, a message might be sent to draw the required amount from the Central Headquarters.
 - (e) Plans of attack on enemy positions must be prepared.

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3. Continuing his address, Thakin CHIT stated that strenuous efforts must be made to carry on military training of recruits and simultaneously to teach them party doctrine. In a reference to Thakin PE's mission to the China Communist Party (CCP), he stated that "aid from our ally MAO Tse-tung" was bound to come sooner or later and that it was necessary for party members to equip themselves to assume the additional responsibilities implicit in CCP aid.
4. He was followed by PU SHWE who introduced his remarks by saying that he was a visiting delegate from Prome charged with the role of reporting on progress in BCP affairs in Lower Burma. He too referred to the THAN PE mission to the CCP and stressed the need for an intensification of BCP activities in anticipation of this aid. He expressed his satisfaction with the progress he had already seen and stated that the major drawback to the complete fulfillment of BCP plans was the inability to arm every individual in the BCP forces. A determined effort must be made to acquire more arms-- "If today every one of us is armed, tomorrow we shall become the government of the country." Finally, he asked for assurance that the other leaders present were prepared to shoulder the additional responsibilities devolving on them by the acceptance of CCP aid. These assurances he would be glad to convey to the Central Headquarters of the BCP.
5. In assuring PU SHWE that leaders in Lower Burma were prepared for these additional responsibilities, AUNG CHOON commented on the growing strength of the BCP in Pegu district. He claimed that the inhabitants of BCP occupied areas in the district voluntarily contributed funds and stores to BCP forces and that with the exception of Pegu town itself, the whole district supported the BCP. It was necessary at times to retreat in the face of overwhelming government strength, but government forces lacked the ability to consolidate their gains and BCP forces were able to recapture territories temporarily conceded to the enemy. The party had sent emissaries into government areas to obtain arms from government forces and with these additional arms plans had been laid to wage widespread offensives on the enemy. Finally he expressed his gratification that the BCP were soon to receive CCP aid.
6. THAN PE said that AUNG CHOON had covered the ground adequately but that he would like to lay stress on the necessity for more funds, arms and stores. Upper Burma, he said, was more than adequately served and he suggested that they should be approached with a view to furnishing arms to Lower Burma. Thakin THA MYAING, who followed, associated himself with the remarks of AUNG CHOON and THAN PE and gave his assurance that the BCP in Lower Burma was ready to assume the greater responsibilities which would soon devolve on it.
7. Thakin SHEIN reminded the meeting that he had been sent to Lower Burma to assist in the publication of the People's Freedom Journal. The Central Headquarters of the BCP had given an assurance that all assistance would be forthcoming to make the newspaper a success. Up to the present they were still not able to publish the journal as often as they could wish. A contributing factor was the slowness with which news was received from

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up-country. Until this and other problems had been solved the Journal would be published bi-weekly. Instructions from the Central Headquarters of the BCP limited the number of copies available in Rangoon to 3,000 per issue and these were for the time being available to party members only at 4 annas per copy. He had come to Pegu from Rangoon to acquaint PU SHWE with the progress of the People's Freedom Journal, and also to discover for himself conditions in Pegu District.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] erroneously reported the date of this meeting as 18 February 1950.

** [REDACTED] Comment. With the exception of Thakin THA MYAING, all the BCP officials present at this meeting were present at the meeting in Minhla on 16 January when THAN PE gave an account of his discussions in Peking. Thakin THA MYAING is recorded as a BCP leader of Pegu district.

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